JAN 1973

2p

The MESSENGER

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

ST. STEPHEN'S, MILNROW & LITTLEBOROUGH

January 1973

Dear Friends,

During the early days of January the 'Messenger' will be received into many different homes.

In Milnrow and Morecambe, Beechfield Estate and Bolton, Dearnley and Dursley, Calderbrook and Cleveleys. Wherever you are as you read this letter, may I on behalf of the Elders of the United Reformed Church at Milnrow and Littleborough, wish you a blessed and peaceful New Year.

As I write, there will be intensive activity going on in banks and business houses, in preparation for the annual stocktaking. Retailers and fashion houses will be clearing out last years models and obsolete stock, to make room for the new and up to date.

I am sure you will agree that whilst this should be a continuing activity of the church; taking stock of our assets, searching for truth, seeking renewal and a more realistic approach to our personal witness, a wider application of our particular talents; there are times when we direct our thoughts with special emphasis to these issues. The New Year is one such time. So what about our stocktaking at Milnrow and Littleborough. What do the 'books' show at the beginning of 1973.

On the debit side..... we are going into the New Year without fulltime Ministerial leadership. We have sustained the loss of devoted life members, from both sides of the pastorate during the past year. We need a further three Elders at Milnrow, to be fully committed in the pastoral charge of the Church. Littleborough would benefit greatly if the same number of young people could be persuaded to accept office of Elder. Whilst not knowing the full potential at our sister church, I could name at least two members who could fill this office responsibly. The full strength of Eldership lies in this combination; the enthusiasm

and challenge of the young harnessed to the wisdom and experience of the not so young.

On the credit side.....by the time this letter reaches you, the appointment of Revd. R.A.C. West as Interim Moderator to the pastorate may well be official. We have a hardworking and dedicated church secretary in each church. We have strong lay leadership. Devoted and enthusiastic Junior Church leaders and teachers. Neither church is faced with any real financial problem.

So we can approach 1973 with a fair degree of optimism. We can offer grateful thanks to God, for so many blessings in our present and in our past.

At the December Meeting of the North East Manchester District one delegate stated quite forcibly, that the United Reformed Church did not have a past .....only a future. This is so true, and the future of the Church is in <u>our</u> hands. The work is not finished by any means. Indeed it is only just beginning.

Let us pray to Almighty God for guidance, for wisdom and understanding, throughout the days of 1973. If we want to balance our books at the end of this year, and to give a good account of the work done, we must be content and willing to trust God for all things. We must seek for and obey His will for our lives and the total life of the church. We must be alive to the needs of our people. Are you content to be a sleeping partner? If we are faithful and honest in this, we can go forward into the coming year with hope, for all else will be given unto us.

May God bless you in His service.

Yours sincerely,

Edith Gillon.

BEETLES AND BUFFET

About 40 ladies attended a lively Ladies Guild Party early in December when a scrumptious buffet was enjoyed by all, especially since there were no pots to wash.

The evening began in chaotic fashion with a game of "beetle" in which everyone played according to different rules until President Edith Gillon was obliged to assert her authority and diplomatic skills in order to establish some standard rules. Amidst all the hullaballoo someone contacted the press and as a consequence the Rochdale Observer published a report on the following Saturday in which they managed to confuse the Ladies Guild with Milnrow Townswomen's Guild. The report was accompanied with excellent photographs of Miss Alice Memory, Mrs. Janice Mundy and Mrs. Dorothy Emmott. The latter with her specs on the end of her nose like some pantomime granny, and more or less as she looks when trying to decypher the notes for this magazine. Nevertheless Dorothy emerged as best beetler and Janice Mundy came second. Mrs. Jean Calow also won a prize.

Other features of this hillarious evening included a side-splitting version of a Butterworth Hall childhood given by Mrs. Hannah Greenwood of Rochdale, in rich Lancashire dialect, and an amusing advertising game. This game was won by a lady who shall remain nameless, but who has recently been trying to sell a tent. Her advert, when the commodity had been amended, said:

> "For sale, large family 'husband'. Sleeps 6,
> Only used for two holidays. Orange and blue.
> Price £60, but worth £99."

The evening ended with a few carols, and a grand time was had by all.

WHAT GENERATION GAP ?

For a few weeks now the young people of the Senior Department have been meeting on Sunday mornings in the Community Room at Sheriff Street, and on the morning of Christmas Eve they presented a Carol Service for the residents of Sheriff Street bungalows. Stephen Collins welcomed everyone and acted as narrator. Fiona Collins and Lynn Brewin read the Christmas story from "Good News for Modern Man." Valerie Fursey sang a solo and accompanied herself on her guitar and for the rest of the service Lynn Brewin provided an accompaniment on a portable electronic organ. Janel Law led the prayers and the rest of the young people distributed hymn sheets and at the end of the service gave a small gift to the residents. In the latter part of the service the Junior Department arrived to sing "Away in a Manger" to a lesser known tune and this was followed by more carol singing accompnaied by Mrs. A. Lynch.

We hope that this helped in some small way to brighten the Christmas of some of these elderly people who do not find it easy to get about these days. To the youngsters who tried so hard on this occasion - well done.

MUSICAL GAP

Unfortunately, the carol singing around the district arranged for Monday 18th December did not take place. For several reasons due to sickness, family commitments, Pilots Christmas party, etc., our numbers were not sufficient to form a viable carol singing group. The faithful few who turned up felt very sorry to disappoint those who were looking forward to our intended visit, but were reluctant to turn out with such inadequate numbers to represent the church. Next year let us try to achieve a really notable turn out.

CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Carol Services tend to take a predictable pattern with the traditional readings of the Christmas story alternating with well-known carols, but that certainly did not apply to the service at St. Stephen's on the evening of Sunday 17th December. Mrs. E. Gillon led what the duplicated programme described as "A Service of Christmas Music and Prose." There were a few traditional carols in the programme but they were outnumbered by less familiar material. The choir rendered "The Sussex Carol", "Mary's Boy Child" "I saw three ships" and "Rocking Carol" to the accompaniment of Mr. Arthur Clegg. Soloists were Mrs. Cynthia Hey, Mrs. Mildred Howarth and Mr. Derek Lynch. Credit should also be given to the choirmistress Mrs. Audrey Baines for producing good results from a team of people whose mood at rehearsals veered erratically from despair to hilarity.

The Readings were most unusual being taken from sources as diverse (or similar?) as a science fiction novel and the Book of Revelations. This was certainly thought provoking stuff. Most Christians have divided feelings at Christmas; on the one hand there is an awareness that the sentimentalism of Christmas clouds the very real problems that Christians ought to be concerned about, on the other hand most of us have a sentimental corner to ourselves to which we like to give an outlet at this time of year.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Candle Light Service at 11.30 pm., conducted by Mr. Allan Roberts was extremely well attended. The church was illuminated only by the light of candles brought by the congregation, until the striking of midnight broke the moments of silence and the church was suddenly filled with (electric) light as Christmas Day began.

Once again the midnight 'brew' was prepared by Mrs. Bruckshaw, and Christmas Greetings were exchanged afterwards over a cup of coffee.

NEW YEAR'S REVOLUTION

Readers will have noticed that this month's "Messenger" is a little bit different.

Firstly, Mrs. Mildred Howarth has designed a new cover for us. It is certainly an attractive cover, but more than that it is also challenging. The word "MESSENGER" zooms from that tower like the sound of a bell meant to be heard for miles around. That is the way it ought to be with this magazine. We ought not to be content with "The Messenger" as a newsletter simply reporting events and being read by people who took part in those events in the first place. We want a "Messenger" which can be read with interest by people who for any reason are not active within our two churches. "The Messenger" should be showing the people of Littleborough and Milnrow what members of the United Reformed Church are doing and thinking. We must show our communities that the church is alive in 1973; after all, for all its imperfections the church is alive.

Secondly, readers will have noticed that the "Messenger" is slimmer. This is because we no longer have advertisements from local trades-people for whose support we have been extremely grateful. This decision of the Church meeting will mean that one source of our revenue will be cut. Even so, as in all slimming exercises, if we can cut out those items which merely made us fat and concentrate on those which give us energy or build us up, then we might have a healthier life.

We hope you like the new "Messenger". The Editor, the two church secretaries, Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Emmott do the best they can to keep up a good standard. Sometimes we have enough material to produce a magazine which fills us with delight and confidence that you will like it. Other times we must admit that the magazine just does not seem good enough. Either way, this is your magazine; You can make it a success by sending in your contributions.

GETTING TO KNOW.....(5)

K E N Y A

Kenya, on the east coast of Africa, covers an area of 225,000 square miles; almost twice the size of British Isles. Because Kenya lies astride the Equator there are no distinct seasonal changes excepting in the differing amounts of rain. Along the coastal plain the climate is hot and humid.

Kenya is mainly an agricultural country and much of the coffee, tea, wheat and pinapples grown is exported to us. The industries are linked with agriculture so we find tea, coffee and sugar factories there.

There are over 40 different African tribes in Kenya, most having their own language, but all speak Swahili and many, English as well.

The homes in the villages are circular with mud walls and palm leaf roofs. In the large towns, houses and flats are made from concrete and brick.

"HARAMBEE" ("Tet's All Pull Together") - That's the national motto of Kenya, whose people are pulling together to solve their country's problems. Christians in Kenya are also showing the spirit of Harambee and working together in many ways:

- Boys' Centre in Nairobi where many of the homeless hungry boys are looked after, given a home and a chance to go to school.

- Church has opened up industrial training workshops to help find jobs for hundreds of untrained young men who come to towns looking for work.

- Church as well as Government help show people how to cultivate their land wisely, look after soil, and rear healthy cattle and sheep.

-.Christians are among the many medical workers who are 'pulling together' to heal the sick and prevent illness.

THE PARENT OF A HANDICAPPED CHILD PRAYS

O God, why did you have to....No....Start again....
We are glad for Betty, O God;
glad for the gift of the time she is with us;
glad she loves us so much, needs us so much,
and that we can do so many things for her.

Bless her now, when she is not so well.....
we know you are near; every one of us has felt
more loving and warm, not worried, these past days..

Thank you God....for teaching us about the two
non-questions.... The 'Why' about yesterdays -
and the 'When' about tomorrows.....
This day is enough for us.....and for Betty.

....(The Congregational Prayer Fellowship Handbook)

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HELP! for MARIE RAND

Marie, the seriously handicapped child, is making good progress, but requires continuous help with her exercises in the afternoons - a tutor goes most mornings. Her mother is getting rather desperate for help, as it becomes quite a strain having to cope so much alone. She is grateful not only for the physical help, but for the opportunity of having someone to whom she can talk.

As she has now moved to 11 Cook Street, Hamer, Rochdale, perhaps one or two from Littleborough would also like to help. Anyone interested from both churches can either contact Mrs. Rand direct or inform Mrs. Gwen Whittaker of 27 Harbour Lane, Milnrow, who will be pleased to make arrangements.

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THANKS FROM LITTLEBOROUGH

The people at Littleborough would like to publish their appreciation and thanks to Mr. Royle, Mrs. Emmott and all at Milnrow who assist in the production of the 'Messenger' ....Thank you all!

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Eva Hancock of 75 Victoria Street, Littleborough, died on Friday, 1st December, aged 73 years. The funeral service was conducted by Mr. J. Lord on 6th December.

Mr. Fred Simpson writes:

"For more than 40 years Mrs. Hancock served God through our church and as a delegate was widely known at district and county meetings.

"Her knowledge and experience in church life will be greatly missed. Only after a serious illness could she be pursuaded to relinquish per position of Church Secretary and even then, as a life deacon, she was always eager to know of the activities within our church.

"She will long be remembered by students and ministers for her hospitality and friendliness when they visited her home and by the many people who were looking for a sympathetic ear, for she was ever ready to listen and, if possible, to help those with problems or troubles.

"To Mrs. Hancock the Church was her life. Jesus was her saviour and friend. We thank God for her life and are proud to have been able to share part of that life with her.

"We extend to Mr. & Mrs. Barker and the relatives our sincere sympathies."

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FILM EVENINGS

Our film evenings have proved so popular that it has been decided to have a repeat performance of the first of the three films in the series.

Ask anyone who saw "FOR EVERY CHILD" and then come to see it yourself on:

TUESDAY, 16th JANUARY at 7.30 pm.

THE CAROL SERVICE - LITTLEBOROUGH

The annual Carol Service was well attended and there was some hearty singing by the choirs and congregation alike.

The adult choir was accompanied by Mrs. E. Cockcroft and they sang "He smiles within his cradle" and "Silent Night."

The Junior Church selections were accompanied by Miss Lindsey Merrick and the soloists were Mark Grindrod, Wendy Law and Beverley Merrick. The selection included "As Joseph was a2walking" and "Hist, A Merry Carol." Councillor W.S. Edwards J.P. conducted the service and Mr.F.G. Simpson thanked all who took part.

THE TOY SERVICE

The Revd. Robert Parker was the preacher at our Toy Service when the gifts were received from the children by Mr. & Mrs. F. Beattie. Church member and probation officer, Mr. Roy Vincent, later distributed them to needy families in the Heywood area.

OPERATION LOWER SCHOOLROOM

Roll up with your roller and brush up your painting. You are needed in early January to help with the decoration of the lower schoolroom and the kitchen. Many hands make light work to say nothing of saving the church a substantial amount of money. So please offer your services.

CHINA GOES TO OSWALDTWISTLE

The winning ticket in the Refreshment Stall Raffle held prior to the Autumn Fair was ticket No. 30 Green. The prize of a tea set was won by Mr.P.Moore of 79 Thwaites Road, Oswaldtwistle. Mr. Moore is the brother of Mrs. Jean Hobbs.

GOOD WISHES: The elders would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and appeal for your support in the coming year in all we seek to do in the name of our Lord Hesus Christ.

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY WORSHIP DOOR STEWARDS

Jan. 7th	Counc.J. Harrison	Counc. I Royle
14th	Mr. J. Collins	Mrs. A. Collins
21st	Mr. L. Whittaker	Mrs. F. Rae
28th	Mr. G. Buckley	Mr. A. Rae
Feb. 4th	Mr. H. Mellor	Mrs. F. Butterworth

ELDERS ROTA
EVENING DOOR STEWARDS

PIANIST/ORGANIST EVENING WORSHIP

Jan. 7th	Mr. J. Wild	Mr. D. Logan
14th	Mr. G. Whitworth	Mr. J. Emmott
21st	Mrs. M. Howarth	Mrs. C. Hey
28th	Mr. K. Hey	Mr. D. Logan
Feb. 4th	Mr. B. Clough	Mrs. C. Hey

COMMUNION ROTA

Jan. 7th	Mr. B. Clough	Mr. J. Emmott
Feb. 4th	Mr. J. Wild	Mrs. M. Howarth

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

Jan, 7th	Mrs. K. Reid	Mrs. P. Royle
14th	Mrs. E. Busill	Miss I. Tither
21st	Mrs. H. Buckley	Mrs. E. Smith
28th	Miss M. Wood	Miss A. Clegg
Feb. 4th	Mrs. J. Duffy	Mrs. F. Butterworth

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

During the month of January you will notice from the diary that we are to have many visiting ministers conducting Sunday Worship. We do ask for your every support by attendance at worship, especially in the evening.

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

Jan.7th	Mrs. A. Stott	Mr. F. Beattie	10.30 am.
14th	Mrs. B. Hartley	Mr. E. Holt	10.30
	Mr. W. Barker	Mrs. A. Stott	6.00
21st	Mr. F. Ingham	Mrs. E. Crossley	10.30
28th	Mr. J. Nairn	Mr. J. Holt	10.30
Feb.4th	Mr. B. Hill	Mr. H.N. Hill	10.30

ELDERS COMMUNION ROTA

Jan.14th	Mr. F. Ingham	Mr. F. Beattie	6.00
28th	Mr. W. Barker	Mr. F. Simpson	10.30

COFFEE ROTA

Jan. 7th	Mrs. E. Crawford	Mrs. J. Simpson
14th	Mrs. V. Crossley	Mrs. B. Holt
21st	Mrs. J. Law	Mrs. J. Allison
28th	Mrs. B. Hartley	Mrs. S. Moss
Feb. 4th	Mrs. W. Spinks	Mrs. J. Hobbs

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

Jan. 7th	'God Cares' Matthew 6: 28 -33	Mrs. K. Hill
14th	'Welcome to all' Luke 5: 27 -33	Mrs. Lightfoot
21st	'Put away childish things' Jeremiah 1: 4 -8	Martin Law
28th	'Neither weary nor faint' Isaiah 40: 28 -31	Carl Mallinson
Feb. 4th		Esther Bennett

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

January

Tues. 2nd	1.30 pm.	Coach leaves for Pantomime
Sun. 7th	11.00 am.	Mrs. M. Jeffrey
	6.00 pm.	Rev. Wm. Purvis (Service of Word & Sacrament)
Mon. 8th	6.30 pm.	Pilots (and each Monday)
Wed. 10th	7.30 pm.	Elders Meeting
Sun. 14th	11.00 am.	Rev. D.G. Stewart (Moderator, N.W. Province)
	6.00 pm.	Rev. Brian Rawling (Cloveleys)
Sun. 21st	11.00 am.	Mr. A. Roberts
	6.00 pm.	Film Service
Sun. 28th	11.00 am.	Mrs. E. Gillon
	6.00 pm.	Rev. T.A. Chadwick (Manchester)
Wed. 31st	8.00 pm.	Annual Church Meeting

February

Sun. 4th	11.00 am.	Family Worship
	6.00 pm.	Service of Word & Sacrament Rev. J. Barry Hawksworth

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

January 7th	Mrs. D. Howarth Mrs. E. Gillon	Mrs. A. Wood
14th	Mrs. F. Whitworth	Mrs. J. Cudworth
21st	Mrs. D. Chadwick	Mrs. F. Rae
28th	Mrs. G. Whittaker	
February 4th	Miss M. Wood	Mrs. D. Butterworth

OFFERTORIES

	Cash am.	Cash pm.	Envelopes	Total
November	£15.62	£5.26	£52.51	£73.39

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C.C.W.M. Boxes - £30.

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

January

Mon. 1st		Junior Church Trip to Pantomime.
Thur. 4th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Fri. 5th	7.30 pm.	District Meeting (Middleton)
Sun. 7th	10.30 am.	Mr. J. Lord
Tues. 9th	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild - Mr. R. Vincent
Thurs.11th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Sun. 14th	10.30am.	Rev. B. Rawling (Cleveleys)
	6.0 pm.	Rev. D.G. Stewart - Moderator (Communion)
Tues.16th	7.30 pm.	Film Evening "FOR EVERY CHILD"
Thur.18th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Sun. 21st	10.30 am.	Mr. J. Lord
Thur.25th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
	8.00 pm.	Men's Fellowship - Dr. R. Letch: Film show on Lincolnshire.
Sun. 28	10.30 am.	Rev. T.A. Chadwick (Family Communion)
Tues.30th		Annual Church Meeting

February

Thur. 1st	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Sun. 4th	10.30 am.	Mr. J. Lord

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

January 7th	Mrs. Hill
14th	Mrs. Binns
21st	Mrs. Arthur
28th	Mrs. Jones
February 4th	Mrs. White

OFFERTORIES

	Cash	Envelopes
November 19th	£1.70	£17.90
26th	2.15	8.65
December 3rd	2.04	12.55
10th	7.28	13.28

CHURCH SECRETARIES:

MILNROW

Mr. Allan Roberts,
54 Beechfield Road,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 42243

LITTLEBOROUGH

Mr. F.G. Simpson,
121 Calderbrook Road,
Littleborough.
Tel: 061 834 4402
(Business)

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MESSENGER EDITOR:

Counc. Ian Royle B.Sc. (Econ.),
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Tel: ROCHDALE 41916

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HOSPITAL VISITORS

MILNROW: Miss M. Wood
Mrs. A. Wood
Mrs. E. Starkie
Miss A. Memory